

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this publication is to provide the Missouri State Highway Patrol, the Missouri Division of Highway Safety, and other State and local authorities with information on Missouri's traffic crash problems. It is one in a series which is being produced annually.

The primary source of data for the Compendium is the Statewide Traffic Accident Records System being maintained by the Missouri State Highway Patrol. Although this publication contains historical data on Missouri's traffic crash and severity experience, emphasis is placed on the most recent year (2000).

In 2000, Missouri had a total of 193,778 traffic crashes. The economic loss associated with these traffic crashes was estimated to be \$3,238,775,000. In these traffic crashes, 0.5% (991) involved one or more persons being killed in the incident. In addition, 26.3% (49,715) involved no persons being killed but one or more persons being injured in the incident.

In 2000, a total of 1,157 persons died in Missouri traffic crashes. One person was killed every 7.6 hours. The death rate (the number of deaths per 100 million miles of travel) was 1.7 in 2000. Missouri experienced a slight increase in its death rate compared to 1999. In 1999, the death rate was 1.6.

A total of 78,328 persons were injured in traffic crashes in 2000. One person was injured every 6.9 minutes.

Data are provided in this Compendium identifying causal factors or characteristics of Missouri's traffic crash experience which directly impact the frequency of occurrence or personal death and injury severity levels. A brief analysis of these factors is given below:

- Speed was found to be a significant contributing factor in Missouri's traffic crash experience especially as it relates to crashes involving death and injury. Of all 2000 Missouri traffic crashes, 16.2% were speed related. Of all fatal crashes, 36.0% were speed related. A total of 437 persons were killed and 16,444 were injured in this type of crash. In 2000, one person was killed or injured every 31.2 minutes in speed related traffic crashes in the State of Missouri.
- Drinking involvement was a significant contributing factor in Missouri's serious traffic crash experience in 2000. Of all 2000 Missouri traffic crashes, 4.6% involved a person drinking. However, of all fatal crashes, 22.9% had a person drinking. A total of 261 persons were killed and 6,290 were injured in these crashes. In 2000, one person was killed or injured in drinking-involved crashes every 1.3 hours in the State. It should be noted that drinking involvement is being under-reported as a causal factor in traffic crashes and is an even greater problem than the above statistics indicate.
- Drivers of motorized vehicles under the age of 21 were involved in a large number of crashes in the State of Missouri. Of all 2000 traffic crashes, 31.6% involved one or more drivers under the age of 21. Of all fatal crashes, 25.8% involved a young driver. Their involvement in Missouri traffic crashes becomes even more significant when it is recognized that drivers under 21 made up only 10.4% of all Missouri's licensed drivers. A total of 311 persons were killed and 25,313 were injured in traffic crashes involving young drivers. In 2000, one person was killed or injured in a young driver involved traffic crash every 20.6 minutes in the State of Missouri.
- Drivers of motorized vehicles 55 years of age and older were involved in a large number of Missouri traffic crashes. Of all 2000 traffic crashes, 26.1% involved an older driver. Of all fatal crashes, 29.9% involved an older driver. A total of 359 persons were killed and 18,894 were injured in these traffic crashes. In 2000, one person was killed or injured in an older driver involved traffic crash every 27.4 minutes in the State of Missouri.
- Commercial motor vehicles were involved in a significant number of Missouri traffic crashes. In 2000, 10.3% of all traffic crashes involved a commercial motor vehicle. When examining fatal traffic crashes, 18.4% involved a commercial motor vehicle. A total of 227 persons were killed and 6,399 were injured

in commercial motor vehicle related crashes. As a result, one person was killed or injured in commercial motor vehicle involved traffic crashes every 1.3 hours in the State.

- Although motorcycle related traffic crashes do not occur in extremely large numbers in the State of Missouri, they usually result in persons (mainly motorcycle drivers and passengers) being either killed or injured. Of all traffic crashes occurring in the State in 2000, 26.8% resulted in a person being killed or injured. However, in motorcycle involved crashes, 77.8% resulted in a death or personal injury. In 2000, 0.7% of all traffic crashes involved a motorcycle. In fatal traffic crashes, 4.2% involved a motorcycle. A total of 45 persons were killed and 1,236 were injured in motorcycle traffic crashes. One person was killed or injured in these crashes every 6.9 hours in the State of Missouri.
- Although school buses are not involved in a large number of traffic crashes in the State of Missouri they are important due to their potential for causing death and injury to young children. Of all 2000 Missouri traffic crashes, 0.9% involved a school bus or school bus signal. Four people were killed and 797 were injured in these crashes. In 2000, one person was killed or injured in school bus involved traffic crashes every 11.0 hours in the State of Missouri.
- Although bicycle related traffic crashes do not occur in extremely large numbers in the State of Missouri, they usually result in persons (mainly bicycle drivers and passengers) being either killed or injured. Of all traffic crashes occurring in the State in 2000, 26.8% resulted in a person being killed or injured. However, in bicycle traffic crashes, 82.7% resulted in a death or personal injury. In addition, young children account for a large proportion of the bicyclists involved in traffic crashes. The average age of bicycle drivers involved in 2000 traffic crashes was 19.4 years. Of all 2000 Missouri traffic crashes, 0.5% involved a bicycle. Of all fatal traffic crashes, 0.9% were bicycle related. A total of 9 persons were killed and 749 were injured in these traffic crashes. One person was killed or injured in a bicycle traffic crash every 11.6 hours in the State.
- Although pedestrian related traffic crashes do not occur in extremely large numbers in the State of Missouri, they usually result in persons (mainly the pedestrian) being either killed or injured. Of all traffic crashes occurring in the State in 2000, 26.8% resulted in a person being killed or injured. However, in pedestrian traffic crashes, 94.3% resulted in a death or personal injury. In addition, young children and older persons account for a large proportion of the pedestrians killed or injured in these traffic crashes. Of all 2000 Missouri traffic crashes, 0.9% involved a pedestrian. Of all fatal traffic crashes, 8.8% involved a pedestrian. A total of 88 persons were killed and 1,805 were injured in these traffic crashes. One person was killed or injured in a pedestrian traffic crash every 4.6 hours in the State of Missouri.
- Motor vehicles striking fixed objects account for a large number of traffic crashes in the State of Missouri, especially those resulting in death or personal injury. Of all 2000 Missouri traffic crashes, 16.2% involved a fixed object being struck as part of the first harmful event. In fatal crashes, 33.8% involved a fixed object. A total of 372 persons were killed and 14,002 were injured in fixed object traffic crashes. One person was killed or injured every 36.7 minutes in this type of crash in the State.
- Although hazardous materials are not involved in a large number of traffic crashes in the State of Missouri, they are a significant problem because of their potential for causing death, personal injury, and property damage through the release of such materials in the surrounding environment. Of all 2000 traffic crashes, 0.1% involved hazardous materials. Of all fatal traffic crashes, 1.1% were hazardous material related. A total of 20 persons were killed and 161 were injured in hazardous material crashes. One person was killed or injured in these crashes every 2.0 days in the State of Missouri.
- Construction / other work zones are not involved in a large number of traffic crashes in the State of Missouri. However, they are considered a significant problem because they are temporary in nature and not found that frequently on the State's roadway network compared to other types of traffic controls. In 2000, 1.1% of all traffic crashes involved a construction / other work zone. When examining fatal traffic crashes, 1.1% were associated with a construction / other work zone. Fifteen persons were killed and 838 were injured in construction / other work zone related traffic crashes. As a result, one person was killed or injured in this type of crash every 10.3 hours.

- The wearing of seat belts by drivers and passengers in vehicles is one of the best ways to prevent death and personal injury when involved in a traffic crash. The State of Missouri has recognized the benefit seat belt usage has on reducing traffic crash deaths and injuries through the passage of infant restraint and adult seat belt laws in recent years. The effectiveness of using seat belts becomes apparent when considering the following statistics. A driver of an automobile, van, motor home, or truck involved in a 2000 Missouri traffic crash had a 1 in 3 chance of being injured if they were not wearing their seat belt. However, if they were wearing a seat belt, their chance of being injured was 1 in 7. When examining driver deaths, the difference is much more dramatic. A driver involved in a 2000 Missouri traffic crash had a 1 in 59 chance of being killed if they were not wearing a seat belt. In those cases where the driver wore a seat belt their chance of being killed was 1 in 1,369.